



**WASHINGTON'S POTATO
ESTIMATING PROGRAM**
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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The estimating program for potatoes includes a number of estimates that span more than a year. Nationally, potatoes are estimated by seasonal groups: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Washington is one of the 7 major fall potato states. Stocks estimates are made for the 13 major potato states that account for about 97 percent of the fall production total. Washington is the number 2 producing state of fall potatoes and accounts for about one-fifth of the nation's total.

Estimates for potatoes are made using information collected from producers, potato processors, and other agribusinesses. Data from growers are used for acreage, yield, production, and stock estimates. Data obtained from the potato processors are used for the potato processing report, stocks, prices, and cold storage. Secondary information is used as check data, such as marketings and grower disposition surveys. Acreage estimates are set with a combination of survey indications that come from both a probability survey and a non-probability survey. A general description of a probability sample is where each operation in the state has a chance of being selected and a response is necessary for each operation selected. Potato growers are surveyed for acreage planted as of June 1, and the estimates are released in the July Crop Production Report. The next estimates of planted and harvested acreage are released in the November Crop Report and the December Potato Stocks Report. A grower survey is done in conjunction with the fall acreage and production survey in November and any revisions to the June estimate are based on information obtained from this survey and the December Agricultural Survey. Preliminary end-of-season estimates are published in the Crop Production Annual Summary published in mid-January. The final end-of-season estimates are published in the Potato Report released in late September the following year.

Yield estimates for fall potatoes are forecast as of November 1 and December 1. A final estimate is made at the end of December. Washington has the highest average yield in the United States. Survey indications from potato producers are used in conjunction with an objective yield survey. The objective yield survey is relatively easy to understand in

principle. Two units are laid out for each sample. Row widths and plant counts are taken in a 20 foot section of the row to establish an estimate of plants per acre. Three hills are dug from each unit and the potatoes are weighed. The average weight per hill multiplied by the plant population produces an indication of gross yield. A post-harvest sample is used to estimate the quantity of potatoes left in the field after harvest and is deducted from the gross yield to determine the net yield, the actual quantity taken from the field. Although the procedure is straightforward, the key is randomly placing the samples in fields so that the 200 samples selected in Washington will represent the state's acreage accurately. Information regarding varieties is also collected during the potato objective yield survey. In Washington, Russet Burbank is the most popular variety, as it can be used for both processing and fresh market.

Harvest begins in July for the early varieties of Shepody and Norkotah. Harvest of the Russet Burbanks usually lasts through the middle of November. Monthly stocks estimates begin on December 1 and run through June 1. Potato storage operators are surveyed beginning December 1 and these data, along with disposition information collected from processors, is used to set the December 1 stocks estimate. Idaho, Washington, and Oregon complete a Tri-State balance sheet for stocks each month from December 1 through June 1, where inshipments, outshipments, and the total disposition of potatoes within each state and the Tri-State area are tabulated. Processing data are published from October 1 through June 1. Due to disclosure problems, processing data for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are published as two estimates. Idaho and Malheur County Oregon, and Washington and Other Counties, Oregon. Potato stocks reports, which also include processing, acreage, and production estimates, are published from December 1 through June 1, at both the national and state levels. Each year, a survey on disposition of the previous year's crop is done during June in conjunction with the acreage survey for the current year's planted acreage. The annual disposition and processing estimates are published at the end of September in the Annual Potato Report.

For the most current Washington State releases you can visit our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington or call (800)435-5883

State Rankings, 2004 Crop Year
Top Ten States and the United States, Based on Production

State	Rank	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
		1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.
Idaho	1	355.0	353.0	374.0	131,970
Washington	2	160.0	159.0	590.0	93,810
Wisconsin	3	71.0	70.0	435.0	30,450
North Dakota	4	105.0	101.0	265.0	26,765
Colorado	5	70.8	70.0	368.0	25,786
Oregon	6	37.0	37.0	534.0	19,775
Maine	7	63.5	61.5	310.0	19,065
Minnesota	8	47.0	44.0	430.0	18,920
California	9	45.1	45.1	392.0	17,661
Michigan	10	43.0	42.0	325.0	13,650
United States		1,193.3	1,166.9	391.0	456,041

Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, & Production, By Counties, Washington, 2003-2004

County and District	2003				2004			
	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production
	Acres		Cwt.		Acres		Cwt.	
COUNTY								
Adams	30,500	30,500	585	17,850,000	30,500	30,500	604	18,410,000
Benton	31,500	31,500	640	20,175,000	31,000	31,000	662	20,528,000
Franklin	32,000	32,000	555	17,770,000	30,000	30,000	583	17,500,000
Grant	34,500	34,500	580	20,025,000	36,000	35,800	589	21,100,000
Kittitas	500	500	410	205,000	1/	1/	1/	1/
Klickitat	1,500	1,500	560	840,000	1/	1/	1/	1/
Lincoln	5,000	5,000	600	3,000,000	4,500	4,500	558	2,510,000
Skagit	11,000	11,000	370	3,695,000	10,700	9,900	337	3,333,000
Walla Walla	11,000	11,000	680	7,480,000	10,500	10,500	725	7,615,000
Whatcom	2,000	2,000	375	750,000	1,900	1,900	380	722,000
Yakima	2,000	2,000	395	790,000	1,800	1,800	390	702,000
Other Counties	1,500	1,500	380	570,000	3,100	3,100	448	1,390,000
DISTRICT								
Western	13,500	12,500	370	4,625,000	13,100	12,300	345	4,245,000
Central	35,500	35,500	620	22,010,000	34,500	34,500	640	22,097,000
Northeast	1,000	1,000	390	390,000	900	900	370	333,000
East Central	102,000	102,000	575	58,645,000	101,000	100,800	590	59,520,000
Southeast	11,000	11,000	680	7,480,000	10,500	10,500	725	7,615,000
STATE TOTAL	163,000	162,000	575	93,150,000	160,000	159,000	590	93,810,000

1/ Included in "Other Counties" category to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

County Rankings, 2004 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1	WA	Grant	36,000	35,800	589	21,100,000	4.63%	4.63%
2	ID	Bingham	56,400	56,000	370	20,740,000	4.55%	9.17%
3	WA	Benton	31,000	31,000	662	20,528,000	4.50%	13.68%
4	WA	Adams	30,500	30,500	604	18,410,000	4.04%	17.71%
5	WA	Franklin	30,000	30,000	583	17,500,000	3.84%	21.55%
6	ID	Power	39,000	38,700	382	14,800,000	3.25%	24.80%
7	ID	Cassia	31,000	30,800	403	12,400,000	2.72%	27.51%
8	ID	Minidoka	28,500	28,300	428	12,100,000	2.65%	30.17%
9	WI	Portage	20,800	20,500	470	9,665,000	2.12%	32.29%
10	ID	Madison	30,300	30,100	320	9,630,000	2.11%	34.40%
11	ID	Fremont	29,500	29,300	322	9,420,000	2.07%	36.46%
12	ID	Jefferson	24,300	24,200	380	9,200,000	2.02%	38.48%
13	ID	Bonneville	30,100	29,900	303	9,070,000	1.99%	40.47%
14	CO	Rio Grande	21,000	20,600	385	7,910,000	1.73%	42.21%
15	WA	Walla Walla	10,500	10,500	725	7,615,000	1.67%	43.88%
16	CO	Alamosa	20,700	20,600	345	7,130,000	1.56%	45.44%
17	ND	Walsh	33,000	31,800	211	6,710,000	1.47%	46.91%
18	OR	Morrow	11,200	11,200	587	6,574,000	1.44%	48.35%
19	ID	Twin Falls	14,700	14,600	435	6,350,000	1.39%	49.74%
20	CO	Saguache	16,500	16,300	365	5,920,000	1.30%	51.04%
21	OR	Umatilla	9,600	9,600	588	5,641,000	1.24%	52.28%
22	ND	Pembina	26,900	26,300	206	5,409,000	1.19%	53.46%
23	WI	Waushara	11,250	11,000	480	5,307,000	1.16%	54.63%
24	ID	Canyon	9,300	9,300	508	4,720,000	1.03%	55.66%
25	ID	Jerome	10,900	10,800	417	4,500,000	0.99%	56.65%
26	ID	Elmore	8,900	8,900	503	4,480,000	0.98%	57.63%
27	WI	Adams	9,650	9,500	435	4,123,000	0.90%	58.54%
28	ND	Grand Forks	12,300	11,500	326	3,744,000	0.82%	59.36%
29	ND	Kidder	8,900	8,800	417	3,668,000	0.80%	60.16%
30	WI	Langlade	10,650	10,550	340	3,588,000	0.79%	60.95%
31	WA	Skagit	10,700	9,900	337	3,333,000	0.73%	61.68%
32	OR	Klamath	5,800	5,800	488	2,831,000	0.62%	62.30%
33	ID	Gooding	7,000	7,000	403	2,820,000	0.62%	62.92%
34	WA	Lincoln	4,500	4,500	558	2,510,000	0.55%	63.47%
35	OR	Malheur	5,200	5,200	470	2,444,000	0.54%	64.01%
36	MN	Sherburne	5,900	5,800	380	2,204,000	0.48%	64.49%
37	ID	Caribou	6,600	6,600	276	1,820,000	0.40%	64.89%
38	ID	Teton	6,800	6,800	247	1,680,000	0.37%	65.26%
39	ID	Owyhee	3,600	3,600	456	1,640,000	0.36%	65.62%
40	CO	Yuma	3,700	3,700	380	1,410,000	0.31%	65.92%
41	WI	Juneau	2,900	2,900	475	1,379,000	0.30%	66.23%
42	MT	Gallatin	3,860	3,840	335	1,291,000	0.28%	66.51%
43	ID	Bannock	3,500	3,500	360	1,260,000	0.28%	66.79%
44	MN	Morrison	2,500	2,400	465	1,116,000	0.24%	67.03%
45	ND	McHenry	3,000	3,000	332	997,000	0.22%	67.25%
46	MN	Polk	4,700	4,500	200	900,000	0.20%	67.45%
47	OR	Baker	1,900	1,900	468	889,000	0.19%	67.64%
48	MN	Todd	1,900	1,900	465	883,500	0.19%	67.84%
49	ID	Payette	1,800	1,800	442	795,000	0.17%	68.01%
50	ID	Lincoln	2,100	2,100	367	770,000	0.17%	68.18%

County Rankings, 2004 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
51	MT	Lake	2,230	2,220	330	737,000	0.16%	68.34%
52	WA	Whatcom	1,900	1,900	380	722,000	0.16%	68.50%
53	WA	Yakima	1,800	1,800	390	702,000	0.15%	68.65%
54	MN	Clay	2,800	2,600	265	689,000	0.15%	68.80%
55	NC	Camden	3,660	3,300	205	679,000	0.15%	68.95%
56	WI	Marathon	1,600	1,600	425	678,000	0.15%	69.10%
57	ND	Sargent	1,700	1,700	381	648,000	0.14%	69.24%
58	OR	Union	1,600	1,600	402	643,000	0.14%	69.38%
59	NC	Pasquotank	4,320	2,920	210	616,000	0.14%	69.52%
60	ND	Ransom	1,800	1,500	400	600,000	0.13%	69.65%
61	WI	Oneida	1,600	1,600	355	566,000	0.12%	69.78%
62	ND	Emmons	1,200	1,200	460	552,000	0.12%	69.90%
63	ID	Butte	2,000	2,000	235	470,000	0.10%	70.00%
64	ID	Blaine	1,800	1,800	256	460,000	0.10%	70.10%
65	PA	Erie	2,340	2,100	215	451,000	0.10%	70.20%
66	ND	Traill	2,800	2,400	185	443,000	0.10%	70.30%
67	NC	Tyrrell	2,650	2,030	210	428,000	0.09%	70.39%
68	NC	Stutsman	1,200	1,200	352	422,000	0.09%	70.48%
69	OR	Jefferson	900	900	456	410,000	0.09%	70.57%
70	MT	Broadwater	1,060	1,050	375	395,000	0.09%	70.66%
71	ND	Benson	1,200	1,200	311	373,000	0.08%	70.74%
72	NJ	Salem	1,400	1,300	285	370,000	0.08%	70.82%
73	MT	Beaverhead	1,050	1,040	345	360,000	0.08%	70.90%
74	ND	Dickey	1,000	1,000	359	359,000	0.08%	70.98%
75	PA	Schuylkill	1,525	1,470	242	356,000	0.08%	71.06%
76	PA	Cambria	1,680	1,500	230	345,000	0.08%	71.13%
77	ND	Cass	1,100	1,100	313	344,000	0.08%	71.21%
78	NC	Washington	2,000	1,710	180	309,000	0.07%	71.28%
79	NC	Pamlico	1,820	1,300	190	248,000	0.05%	71.33%
80	PA	Chester	730	700	350	245,000	0.05%	71.38%
81	ND	Griggs	1,000	900	259	233,000	0.05%	71.44%
82	ND	Foster	1,000	800	270	216,000	0.05%	71.48%
83	ID	Oneida	600	600	350	210,000	0.05%	71.53%
84	NC	Beaufort	1,180	1,100	180	199,000	0.04%	71.57%
85	ND	Towner	800	700	251	176,000	0.04%	71.61%
86	ND	Eddy	700	600	282	169,000	0.04%	71.65%
87	NJ	Cumberland	600	600	282	169,000	0.04%	71.69%
88	MT	Madison	500	490	310	153,000	0.03%	71.72%
89	ND	Nelson	600	600	245	147,000	0.03%	71.75%
90	PA	Lancaster	570	530	277	146,800	0.03%	71.78%
91	NC	Carteret	720	670	190	128,000	0.03%	71.81%
92	PA	Potter	450	440	232	102,000	0.02%	71.83%
93	PA	Luzerne	440	410	244	100,000	0.02%	71.86%
94	MN	Freeborn	1,600	300	325	97,500	0.02%	71.88%
95	AL	De Kalb	745	360	246	88,500	0.02%	71.90%
96	PA	Columbia	300	270	296	80,000	0.02%	71.91%
97	PA	York	300	290	275	79,750	0.02%	71.93%
98	AL	Baldwin	985	545	139	75,600	0.02%	71.95%
99	PA	Lehigh	315	310	226	70,000	0.02%	71.96%
100	AL	Jackson	450	300	187	56,000	0.01%	71.98%

- All states do not estimate potatoes at the county level. States which ranked in the top ten in potato production but did not estimate county-level data in 2004 included California and Maine.



Visit our Internet World Wide Web site at:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/